

1. An Examiner's Amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 C.F.R. § 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee.

Authorization for this Examiner's Amendment was given in a telephone interview with Lisa E. Stahl on 2/18/2009.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

In claim 66, line 2, after 'variant of', delete "the".

3. Claims 56-72 are allowable and have been renumbered 1-17, respectively.
4. The following is an Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance:

None of the prior art of record describe or suggest an isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a fusion protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, an isolated vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule, an isolated host cell comprising the vector and a method for producing a fusion protein, comprising the steps of:

- (a) introducing the vector into a suitable host cell to produce a transfected or infected host cell,
- (b) culturing *in-vitro* said transfected or infected host cell under conditions suitable for growth of the host cell,
- (c) recovering said fusion protein from the culture of said host cell, and
- (d) optionally purifying said recovered fusion protein.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably **accompany** the Issue Fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Advisory Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Prema Mertz whose telephone number is (571) 272-0876. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 7:00AM to 3:30PM (Eastern time).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary Nickol, can be reached on (571) 272-0835.

Official papers filed by fax should be directed to (571) 273-8300. Faxed draft or informal communications with the examiner should be directed to (571) 273-0876.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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Art Unit: 1646

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